MARVEL COMICS

DEADPOOL®

MAY '97 5

THE BATTLE FOR WADE WILSON'S SOUL!

DEADPOOL®

WHY DON'T YOU DITCH THE *GOWN*, SISTER? THIS IS THE '90s, NOT THE '50s!

BUT IT'S SO FLOWING AND COMFORTABLE!

GUYS, C'MON! I NEED YOU TO *FOCUS* HERE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DIRECT EDITION

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$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

DEADPOOL

Merc, wisemouth, and general troublemaker with a heart of gold. Imbued with an artificial derivative of Wolverine's healing factor, he's a man on a mission: to find the reason for his existence.

DR. KILLBREW

The scientist who personally headed the experiment on Deadpool back in his Weapon X days. The good doc wants to cure Deadpool as a means towards absolution.

SIRYN

The deputy leader of X-Force with the sonic scream you'll never forget. The object of Deadpool's affections, she, too, has certain feelings for our Merc.

T-RAY

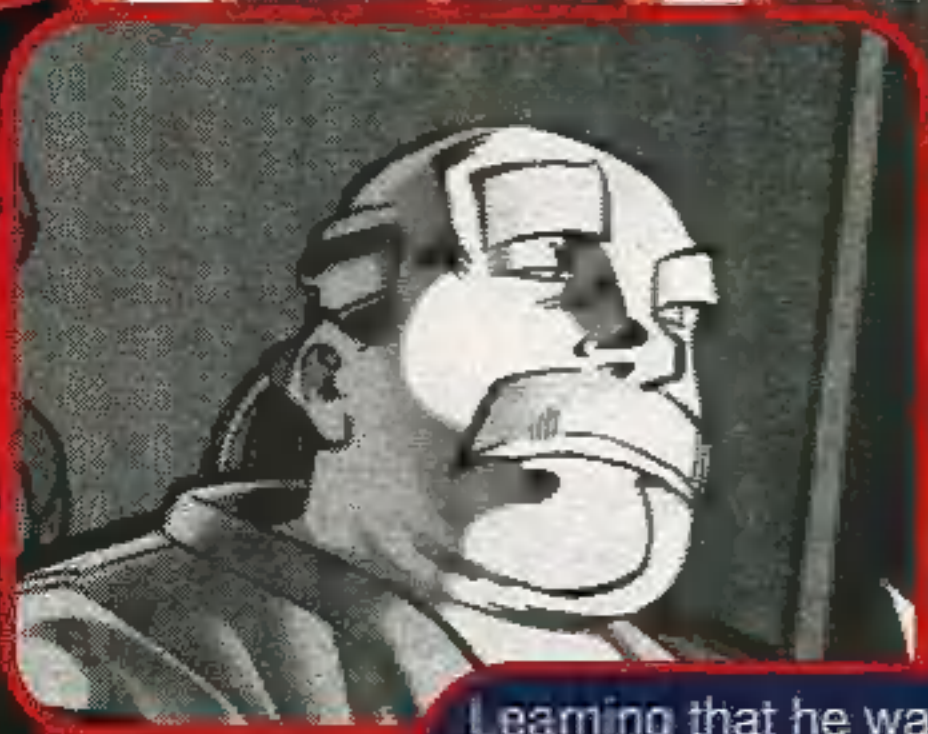
This guy is tough and he hates Deadpool with a passion. That's all we know, but it's probably better that way!

WEASEL

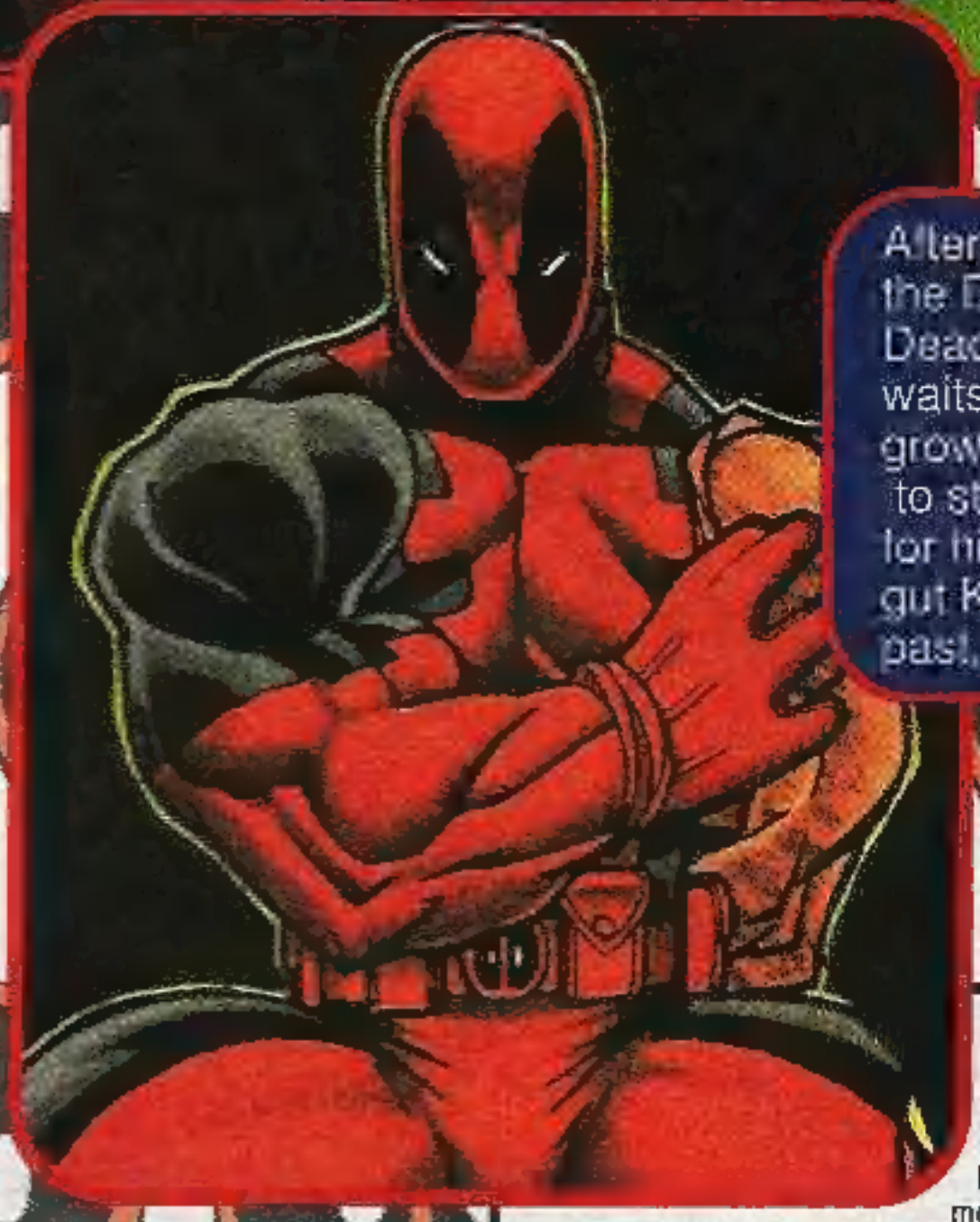
Deadpool's best bud, arms supplier and general wiseguy. Weasel watches Wade's back, but who's keeping an eye on Weasel?

RECENTLY, IN "DEADPOOL"...

Even as his vaunted healing factor began to fail him, Deadpool found himself in the company of Dr. Killbrew, the man who turned him into a monster. Accompanied by his heartthrob Siryn, Wade struggled with his need to kill the Doctor outright.



Learning that he was dying, Deadpool tracked down the incredible Hulk, staying alive long enough to gain a sample of the gamma-brute's blood.



Afterwards, back at Killbrew's lab, the Doctor administered the cure to Deadpool's dilemma. Now, as he waits for his amputated finger to grow back and his body chemistry to stabilize, Deadpool prepares for his final pieces of business: to gut Killbrew, erase the horrors of his past, and ask Siryn out on a date.

Which brings us to the present (and the home of Dr. Killbrew)...

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IN A SECLUDED SCIENTIFIC FACILITY TUCKED AWAY IN THE SWISS ALPS, A BOLD EXPERIMENT HAS JUST COME TO FRUITION...

OH... THIS IS *GOOD*, WILSON... *BETTER* THAN GOOD... THE RESULTS OF THIS MOST RECENT SCAN ARE *SPECTACULAR!*

THE TRANSFUSION OF *GAMMA IRRADIATED BLOOD* INTO YOUR SYSTEM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A *SUCCESS!*

SNIKT!

UH-HUH. YUP.

READINGS INDICATE THAT THE DEGENERATION OF YOUR CELL STRUCTUR HAS BEEN *ARRESTED*. *HOWEVER...*

... THE DAMAGE YOU SUFFERED *BEFORE* THE PROCEDURE WAS *SIGNIFICANT*. EVEN THOUGH YOUR BODY *WILL* RECOVER, YOUR *HEALING FACTOR* WILL *NEVER* BE WHAT IT USED TO BE...

YEAH. MM-MMMH...

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WITH-STAND THE EXCESSIVE *BURNS*, *BRUISES* AND *BATTERING* COMMON IN YOUR LINE OF WORK...

... BUT THE *NEXT* TIME AN *APPENDAGE* IS CUT OFF...

... IT STAYS OFF. YOU'RE NO LONGER INDE-STRUCTIBLE...

DEADPOOL! ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

BLAH BLAH... NOT GONNA *DIE*, BUT THE HEALING FACTOR *DROPPED* A FEW NOTCHES...

...NO MORE *JUGGLING* GINSU KNIVES... STAY AWAY FROM *FATTY FOODS*... KEEP MY *HEAD* AND ARMS IN THE BUS...

ZSSHHT

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO OVER THERE?

WELL, NOW THAT YOU CURED ME LIKE YOU PROMISED, WE GOT SOME *DISCUSSIN'* TO DO... *PRIVATE LIKE.*

Y'KNOW, A NICE CUP OF *CAFE VIENNA*... ME IN MY EASY CHAIR... YOU *GURGLING* YOUR LAST BREATH...

...SWEET *WELD*... AM I GLAD I PAID ATTENTION IN *METALSHOP*...

STAN LEE "PROUDLY" PRESENTS:

THE DOCTOR IS SKINNED!

...OR, THE END OF OUR FIRST STORY ARC

IF I MAY, (TO PARAPHRASE BERT PARKS), WELCOME, DOCTOR KILLBREW!

THIS IS THE END OF YOUR LIFE!

JOE KELLY
YAPPIN'

ED McGUINNESS & KEVIN LAU
SCRIBBLIN'

NATHAN MASSENGILL
SOLIDIFYIN'

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF
BALLOONIN'

MATTHEW PAINE
COLORIZIN'

DIGITAL CHAMELEON
SEPARATIN'

MATT IDELSON
WHIP-CRACKIN'

BOB HARRAS
DONUT-MAKIN'

MEANWHILE, HALFWAY ACROSS THE GLOBE --

-- NESTLED IN THE FESTERING BOWELS OF THE HAMLET OF CHICAGO --

-- LIES A HITHERTO UNEQUALED DEN OF SCUM AND VILLAINY, FORMERLY KNOWN AS SISTER MARGARET'S SCHOOL FOR WAYWARD GIRLS.

REFERRED TO TODAY IN TREMBLING WHISPERS... AS HELLHOUSE

SO, THE *COLOR SCHEME* OF THE PLACE IS TOTALLY *EIGHTIES*, RIGHT?

LIKE I STEPPED INTO A *SERGIO VALENTE* CATALOG OR SOMETHING...

... BUT HEY, I'M NOT THERE TO *CRITIQUE* THE GUY'S NONEXISTENT TASTE IN *INTERIOR DESIGN*. I'M THERE TO DO A *JOB*.

EVEN IF HIS TOILET *IS* GREEN, SO'S HIS *MONEY*, RIGHT?

IS THIS STORY GOING ANYWHERE, *C.F.?* MY *EARS* ARE *CLOGGING* UP...

RIGHT HERE, *WEASEL!* I'M CHECKING OUT A *NAGEL* PRINT WHEN, *BAM!* THOSE *IRA* GUYS CRACK OUT A *BAZOOKA!*

SEE... STILL GOT THE SCAR. *TWISTED*, HUH?

YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO *FIRST BASE*, DUDE. SHE'S GIVING THE *SIGNALS*...

PUH-LEASE! YOU CALL THAT *BLEMISH* A SCAR? DEADPOOL HAS HAD WORSE *PAPER CUTS!*

I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME WE MIXED IT UP WITH *THE HAND* IN *TUNISIA*...

...WADE LOOKED LIKE A WALKING *SUSHI BAR* AFTER THAT...

Uh-Oh...

LOOK... HERE HE COMES...

AW, CRUD...

TAK

'COURSE, HE WAS ALSO THE *ONLY* ONE STILL IN POSSESSION OF ALL HIS *LIMBS*...

WEASEL-DUDE... *DELAY OF GAME. DELAY OF GAME.*

NOSIREE, *FENWAY!* I'M TAKING YOU *CHUMPS* FOR ALL YOU'VE GOT!

HEY, YOU GUYS EVER NOTICE HOW *DIFFERENT* THIS PLACE IS WHEN *DEADPOOL'S* NOT AROUND CAUSING A *RUCKUS?*

MAYBE IT'S JUST *ME*, BUT THE HELLHOUSE DOESN'T EVEN *LOOK* THE SAME --

UH, WEAZ... MAYBE WE GO SIT DOWN NOW..?

HEY! STOP TRYING TO WELCH OUT ON --!

OH, SHIATZU.

GAME OVER, MAN, GAME OVER

YOU SAID THE NAME.

⇒ULP⇐

H-HE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, T-RAY... *HONEST.*

AND WHAT IF I DID? SAYING *DEAD*— Uh, SAYING *"THE NAME"* IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE... *WHY?*

I DON'T LIKE THE NAME.

NO ONE REALLY *LIKES* THE NAME, OR THE *MAN.*

THEY *TOLERATE* THAT FILTHY WORD BECAUSE THEY ARE *AFRAID* OF HIM.

I AM *NOT.*

BULLY FOR YOU, T-RAY... REALLY.

IN FACT, GIVEN THE *OPPORTUNITY*, I'D BET *MOST* OF YOU WOULD LOVE TO BE FREE OF THE NAME... *PERMANENTLY.*

WELL... THIS IS OPPORTUNITY *KNOCKING.* YOU'D BETTER PAY *ATTENTION.*

YEAH? WELL, I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF *MY FRIEND* GOT WIND OF ALL THIS?

IF I *TOLD* YOU... YOU MIGHT *FAINT* BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO *SHOW* YOU...

...AND THAT WOULD SPOIL MY *FUN.*

I WOULDN'T RELY TOO HEAVILY ON MY PAL *DEADPOOL* IF I WERE YOU, WERSEL...

GOLDEN BOYS *TARNISH.* GAMBLERS *CRAP* OUT. LOUDMOUTHED MERCS... GET *SILENCED.*

I'D HATE TO SEE A PERFECTLY GOOD WEAPONS *GEEK* LOSE IT OVER A *WASTE* LIKE WILSON.

WHAT IN *BEVERLY HILLS* IS GOING ON HERE?!

I STEP OUTSIDE FER ONE MINUTE TO SNAG AN ICE CREAM *SAMMITCH* --

-- AN' COME BACK T'FIND ALL THE MAKIN'S OF A MEXICAN STANDOFF IN *MY* PLACE!

I WARNED YOU 'BOUT MIXIN' UP *MISCHIEF* IN HERE, T-RAY! ONE MORE *INCIDENT* --

AIN'T NO TROUBLE HERE, *PATCH.* ASK *ANYONE...*

GO ON, *WEASEL...* TELL THE MAN WHAT TRANSPIRED.

T-RAY... HE...

... NUTHIN', PATCH... HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...

KILLBREW'S LAB.

ALRIGHT, LADDIE! PRE-FLIGHT CHECK'S ALL DONE ON TH'WING...

...WE CAN LEAVE PR*HOME* AS SOON AS YE --

-- *LOCKED?*

MUST IT COME TO THIS, WILSON?

NO, NOT *NECESSARILY.*

WE COULD HAVE A BIG *MUSICAL FINALE* AND WALK OFF INTO THE CLOUDS. BUT, I *DETEST* MUSICALS. *SORRY.*

B-BUT... THE TREATMENT... YOUR HEALTH... I'VE *SAVED* YOU —

WELL, EXCEPT FOR *"CARRIE: THE MUSICAL"*... A BUNCH OF GUYS GOT *WHACKED* IN THAT ONE. NOW *THAT'S* THEATER.

NO. YOU JUST PUT YOUR BROKEN *MONSTER* BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. YOU'VE PROLONGED A LIFE YOU *RUINED* BACK IN WEAPON X.°

I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THAT A *BIG SAVE,* DOC.

ALTHOUGH, ONCE MY FINGER GROWS BACK, IT WILL BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO *SCRATCH MY NOSE* AGAIN...

...GUESS THAT OUGHTA COUNT FOR *SOMETHING...*

° Yeah, yeah, yeah, that Canadian super-hero program that gave us Wolverine and other wacky fellows. -- Matt

OKAY, TELL YA WHAT, KILLBREW. IF THE TREATMENT WORKS AND I GET BACK TO MY OLD *TAMPER RESISTANT* SELF —

— I PROMISE THAT I'LL PLANT YOU UNDER A PRETTY TREE. THAT'LL BE DELIGHTFUL.

ON YOUR KNEES.

=HURF=

PLEASE, WILSON... WAIT...

OPEN TH' DOOR!

WADE!

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE... I CAN'T GIVE YOU YOUR *LIFE* BACK... ...I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT WE PUT YOU THROUGH, BUT I'M TRYING... THERE ARE *OTHERS* THAT I CAN HELP --

YEAH. THERE *ARE*.

I'M GONNA SEND THEM *POLAROIDS* AFTERWARDS TO CHEER THEM UP. *LAUGHTER* IS *GOOD MEDICINE*.

WHAT ABOUT *THERESA?*

"THIS... THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER... NOW BE STILL AND THIS'LL BE PAINLESS... *RELATIVELY.*"

WADE?

WADE! NO!

YOU SELFISH, BACKTALKIN' SON OF A --!

BK'SCHH

EGADS! THAT'S THE LAST TIME I BUY A LITHUANIAN HANDGUN...

I CANNAE BELIEVE THAT AFTER *ALL* WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, YE WERE JUST GOING T'SEND ME OUT T'THE JET AND *WASTE* KILLBREW!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT TO GET *BLOOD* ON YER *TUNIC*, TOOTS. NOW MAKE LIKE A *TREE* AND *BUZZ* OFF --

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST, IT'S JUST NAE *RIGHT* TA KILL A [redacted] LIKE THIS!

WOULD YOU PREFER *POISONING* THEN? *STRANGULATION*? WORK WITH ME HERE, TERRY...

KILLING HIM IS *NAE* GOING TO MAKE THE NIGHTMARES GO AWAY... IT'S *NAE* GOING T'UNDO THE *HORRORS* OF Y'ER LIFE --

WE WON'T REALLY KNOW THAT FOR SURE UNTIL WE GIVE IT THE OLD *COLLEGE TRY*. NOW WILL WE?

PUT THAT *AWAY*, DEADPOOL, OR I SWEAR ON M'MOTHER'S *SOUL*...

...THAT I'LL *STOP* YE, NO MATTER WHAT IT *COSTS*.

FWIPP

YOU'D PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR A SCUMBAG LIKE KILLBREW?! NEWSFLASH, SISTER, HE AIN'T WORTH IT!

YEAH, HE *"CURED"* ME — AGAIN — BUT I STILL AIN'T PAID THE BILL FOR *LAST TIME* —

-- WHEN HE *DESTROYED* MY LIFE TO SAVE MY *BODY*! *"FIX 'EM UP, SEND 'EM OUT... THEY'RE JUST GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, ANYWAY!"*

HOW COULD YOU EVEN *THINK* ABOUT DEFENDING SOMEBODY WHOSE *RESPECT* FOR HUMAN LIFE IS SO SEVERLY *IMPAIRED*?!

I'VE STOOD UP FOR YOU... HAVEN'T I?

MOVE.

MAKE ME --

CHILD? I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO... BUT I'VE SEEN *THAT LOOK* BEFORE...

... PLEASE, STEP OUT OF THE WAY...

MEN LIKE DEADPOOL AND MYSELF ARE GOVERNED BY A DIFFERENT SYSTEM OF *JUSTICE...* I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS I'D DONE MY *PENANCE...* BUT...

... PERHAPS THIS IS THE WAY IT *SHOULD* BE. IN A *FUNNY* WAY, I'M *RELIEVED.*

GOOD. I'D HATE FOR YOU TO BE *MISERABLE* WHEN I *KILL* YOU.

DON'T MAKE THIS ANY MORE DIFFICULT THERESA. JUST...

WADE?

...GO.

NO. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE. IF THIS IS WHAT YE *NEED* TO DO...

...THEN YE SHOULD DO IT IN *FRONT* OF ME.

I WANT T'SEE.

THERESA... GO... PLEASE.

NO.

I SAID LEAVE!

"I MEAN, SURE, ONE MINUTE WADE'S YOUR *BUD*, THE NEXT HE'S PLAYING PIN THE [redacted] ON THE *POSTERIOR*...

AFTER I *BUTCHER* THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE *STARING*...

"...BUT AT LEAST HE'S GOT A *SOUL*."

...EXPECT ME TO DO THINGS TO THE [redacted] IN FRONT OF YOUR *RELATIVES*.

...GOOD DOGGIES.

LISTEN UP, YOU FREAK'S O'NATURE! BIG SCORE COMIN' IN OVER THE HOTLINE!

THIS ONE'S *SWEET!*

CONTRACT HIT ON A *MOB FAMILY*... *THREE MIL* T'COLD THIRTY *DIRTY* WISE GUYS. PLUS *INCENTIVE* BONUSES...

...FOR THEIR *KIDS?* *OH.*

THEY WANT TO DO THE KIDS, TOO... AND THEY WANT IT *MESSY*.

NO ONE... NO ONE WANTS THIS ONE... RIGHT?

"I'LL JUST TOSS IT --"

GLOMP GLOMP

GLOMP GLOMP

HERE.

EXPECT YOUR *CUT* BY SIX THIS EVENING.

SWAP

YEAH... RIGHT.

DON'T ANYONE SAY *NUTHIN*. NUTHIN. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE DO HERE, *BAKE COOKIES?*

I'LL BE IN THE BOX. *DON'T* ANYONE COME LOOKIN' FER ME.

SOHO

JUST *NOT RIGHT*, MAN... JUST NOT RIGHT.

MEANWHILE, A PAGE AWAY, IN THE ALPS...

I WON'T TELL YOU AGAIN.

NO. I WON'T LEAVE.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.

TOUGH.

WHY?! WHY WON'T YOU LET ME DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO?!

YOU CAN'T *HANDLE* IT. JUST GO AND FORGET ABOUT ME...

I CANNAE DO THAT, WADE... BECAUSE *SEEING* IS BELIEVING.

AN' I CANNAE *BELIEVE* THAT THE BEAST YOU *CLAIM* TO HAVE WITHIN YE... IS *STRONGER* THAN THE *MAN* I KNOW YE ARE.

THE MAN WITH THE GENTLE TOUCH... THE SOFT VOICE...

THE MAN WHO WATCHES OVER ME AS I SLEEP.

WHA?! WHAT ARE YOU TALK[redacted] ABOUT?! I DON'T -- I --

-- YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

AYE, WADE... I'VE KNOWN IT FOR WEEKS.

I COULD FEEL Y'R *EYES* ON ME, EVEN WHEN MINE WERE *CLOSED*... AN' I TOOK A GREAT *COMFORT IN* IT...

'CAUSE WHEN Y'R AROUND, I KNOW THAT NO HARM WILL COME TO ME... THAT I'M *SAFE* T'*DREAM*.

BUT IF I'M *WRONG*, AND THAT MAN IS NAE HERE... IF HE NE'ER *EXISTED*... I NEED TO KNOW IT F'R SURE.

THIS ISN'T WESTCHESTER, TERRY. THERE ARE NO *DREAMS* HERE. THAT TIME, IT WAS *FAKE*... THIS IS THE *REAL* ME.

THAT'S NAE TRUE.

I'M *NOT* A GOOD MAN, TERRY. HAVEN'T BEEN FOR *A LONG* TIME... I DWELL IN SOME *VERY DARK* PLACES...

SOME, KILLBREW'S PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR, OTHERS... HE'S *NOT*. I *GUARANTEE* YOU'D *NEVER* WANT TO GO THERE.

LET *ME* BE THE JUDGE OF THAT. *SPARE* KILLBREW... ACCEPT HIS GIFT AND *LEAVE* WITH ME RIGHT NOW... I PROMISE YE, WADE...

YE'LL HAVE A *FRIEND* T'WATCH OVER YE F'R *LIFE*... AND YE WON'T HAVE TO FACE THE DARK *ALONE*... EVER AGAIN.

DON'T MAKE PROMISES YOU *CAN'T KEEP*, TERRY... IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU.

I DON'T. NEVER EVER.

WHEN WE LEAVE, KILLBREW, I WANT YOU TO *RUN*, DON'T WALK, AND *MARK* THIS DAY ON YOUR CALENDAR.

IT'S YOUR NEW *BIRTHDAY*. THIS WOMAN HAS GIVEN YOU *LIFE*.

I DON'T KNOW *HOW MUCH* LIFE, KILLBREW, AND FRANKLY, I DON'T *CARE*.

GO FORTH, FIND PEACE, OR DO WHATEVER, BUT *REMEMBER* THIS...

DEATH STARED YOU DOWN TODAY... YOUR *CREATION* CAME BACK TO DO YOU IN, *DR. FRANKENSTEIN*... AND HE LET YOU *LIVE* FOR *ONE REASON* ONLY...

TO SAVE *HIMSELF*.

GO AND FIND THE *OTHERS*... HELP *THEM* LIKE YOU HELPED *ME*.

BUT IF I SO MUCH AS HEAR A *SECOND-HAND RUMOR* THAT YOU'RE PLAYING THE *OLD ROLE* AGAIN...

...YOU'LL RUN OUT OF WORDS BEGGING ME FOR *MERCY*. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES... YES... THANK YOU, WILSON.

I SWEAR I'LL MAKE *AMENDS*... YOU *WILL* SEE THAT I HAVE CHANGED... THANK YOU.

DON'T THANK ME, KILLBREW... I'M JUST A *MONSTER* LIKE YOU... AN *ANIMAL*...

...THANK THE WOMAN WHO BELIEVES... THAT I MIGHT *ALSO* BE SOMETHING *ELSE*.

THIS IS A PLACE WHERE NOTHING GROWS.

WHERE THE AIR HANGS THICK... SICK...

SILENT, AS IF EVEN THE WHISPER OF WIND IS AFRAID TO TRESPASS...

NO SUN HAS EVER SHINED HERE.

SNAP

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE DEATH LIVES...

...AND ALL HOPE DIES.

FOOM

TODAY... WAS A DAY.

THE ASSIGNMENT WENT SMOOTHLY.

I KEPT EVIDENCE.

SQUISH

SOMETIMES THEY ASK FOR IT. IT MAKES THEM FEEL LIKE GOD. BUT EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T...

...I SHOW IT TO THEM.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT THEY NEED TO SEE. THEY NEED TO BE A PART OF WHAT I DO.

I AM NOT AN ICBM. A SATELLITE. A LONG RANGE WEAPON. MEANDERTH WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON.

I AM AN EXTENSION OF THEIR RAGE. GREED. PAIN. LUST. SOUL...

AND THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT.

I BRING THEM EVIDENCE, SO THAT THEY CAN SEE THAT I AM INDISPENSIBLE.

IT'S BETTER ADVERTISING THAN WORD OF MOUTH.

BREATHE.

WOUNDS SCARRING OVER NICELY... I FEEL MY BODY REPAIRING ITSELF GRUDGINGLY... AGAIN...

BREATHE.

BUT THE SCREAMS HAVE NOT YET PASSED THROUGH ME...

BREATHE.

HUMAN NOISES LINGER AND FESTER... ONLY PUT TO REST WHEN HONORED...

HOLD.

RECOUNT THE JOB. EVERY DETAIL. SOUND. SMELL. ESPECIALLY SMELL...

GUNPOWDER, BLOOD, SKIN IN MY MOUTH.

HER HAIR HITS THE GROUND BEFORE THE REST OF HER.

HE HAD ON A BLUE VEST... TURNED VERY BLACK AND WET.

HOLD.

REMEMBER IT ALL. ALL FORTY-SEVEN OF THEIR ENDS... REMEMBER.

GOOD.

BREATHE.

THE DEAD MUST BE HONORED, OR THEY WILL HAUNT US...

...BUT YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, DON'T YOU, FRIEND?

THE DISHONORED DEAD **FLOCK** TO YOU... FLIES TO A WALKING CORPSE... ALWAYS **LURKING** JUST OVER YOUR SHOULDER...

CLAWING AT YOU WITH **ANXIOUS** FINGERS...

MY FINGERS.

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, **DEADPOOL**, OLBOY...

I'M NOT READY TO TAP YOU ON THE BACK...

YET.

CARLOS N. WILSON

WESTCHESTER AMERICA.

SPECIFICALLY, THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

THE ROOF.

AHEM! SO...

HERE WE [redacted] AGAIN, [redacted] ROURKE, DECOMPRESSING AFTER YET ANOTHER *FINE* [redacted] GOT YOU INTO.

THAT WE ARE.

SO...UH... WHAT NOW?

NOW?

WELL, REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAID...

...THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO FACE MY PERSONAL ISSUES *ALONE..?*

AYE...

I WAS SORT OF *REPLAYING* THAT PART IN MY HEAD AND WONDERING...

HOW *NOT ALONE* AM I WHEN YOU'RE *AROUND?*

NOT ALONE LIKE THERE'S A PERSON NEXT TO ME ON LINE AT THE *QIK-E-MART* BUYING *CORN NUTS?*

NOT ALONE LIKE IN A CROWDED *MOSH PIT?* OR NOT ALONE LIKE --

Y'KNOW...

LIKE WE'RE *TOGETHER?*

LIKE I SAID, WADE... YE NEED ME... AS A *FRIEND*... F'R ANYTHING... *ANYTHING*, I'M THERE BEFORE YE HANG UP THE PHONE.

BUT IF Y'RE TALKING'SOMETHIN' *MORE TOGETHER* THAN THAT... THIS IS A DIFFICULT *TIME* FOR THAT SORT OF THING... F'R *BOTH* OF US.

PLEASE DON'T HEAR MY HEART PLEASE DON'T HEAR MY HEART PLEASE DON'T HEAR MY HEART.

HERE IT COMES...

I HAVE TO FOCUS MY ENERGIES IF I'M E'ER T'LEAD *X-FORCE*...

-- AN' THAT KIND OF *FOCUS* DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH ROOM FOR THAT KIND OF *TOGETHER*... WITH *ANYONE*.

OH... GOT YA. I WAS, JUST... Y'KNOW... *CURIOUS*. NOT THAT I *CARE* OR NOTHIN...

BUT...

"BUT?"

THAT'S *NOT* TO SAY... IF YE STAY ON THE PATH I THINK Y'RE ON... AND IF I CAN GET *MY OWN* HEAD ON STRAIGHT...

... THAT *TOGETHER* WOULD BE *TOTALLY* OUT OF THE *PROGRAM*.

NOT TOTALLY OUT? REALLY?

AYE.

COOL. I THINK I CAN RUN WITH THAT... SO LONG AS I'M NOT *STRINGING YOU* ALONG OR ANYTHING.

YOU'RE NOT.

GOOD. TILL THEN, THOUGH... WE *BUDS?*

ALWAYS, WADE... *ALWAYS.*

DA END.

DEADLINES

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

DEADPOOL LETTER COLUMN: DEADLINES

How ya doin', folks? Good to see all of you again as we peruse still more mail! Before we get to the letters, there's one thing we need to mention. We've been getting tons of e-mail from everyone, but in order to be able to print e-mailed letters, we need for you to include a few words saying it's okay for us to print your letter. Otherwise, even though we can read your comments, everyone else in comicland is missing out!

Dear Deadlines,

First of all, I would like to say that this is something I've been waiting a long time to do: write in to the letter section of DEADPOOL. So what took you guys so long to decide to give 'Pool his own monthly series? Whatever the reason, I'm really glad you finally came to your senses, even more so after having read the first three issues. Joe Kelly is doing a great job writing this title and making every single issue a real treat. What can I say about Ed's pencils? I just love them! Ever since WOLVERINE '96, I've been a big fan of his work, and his style just fits in perfectly with this book. To finish the praise on the team, I want to say a word of appreciation for the editorial staff and Matt Idelson in particular; the effort and heart you put in to this title really shows and that's what makes this my favorite title. Now for some questions/ suggestions:

1) I know you're not really interested in doing this in the near future, but have Logan show up in this title. He and Wade have a lot in common, especially now that they're both involved with LL & L.

2) Have Wade kick T-Ray's behind really soon; I don't like him.

3) If, or should I say when, Black Tom Cassidy ever comes back, let Deadpool be the one to finally put him to rest, after he gets his beloved hand back.

4) Will Deadpool and Alpha Flight meet anytime soon?

5) What exactly makes Wade Wilson a mutant? It can't be his healing factor because it's not as if he was born with it.

Before I go, I just want to say that the design of the Deadlines page is the best in all the books Marvel puts out every month.

So until Deadpool gets a contract with Estee Lauder, make mine Marvel!

Goncalo Fonseca
Lisbon, Portugal
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Glad you like DEADPOOL, Goncalo! But, uh, one little word of advice; the Estee Lauder crack. We tried to make it clear to you guys in last issue's letters page that Deadpool doesn't like jokes about his appearance. I mean, we can't tell you what to do, but 'Pool will track you down, and we can't be held responsible! Now, on to your questions!

1) Wolvie won't be showing up anytime soon, but we've got a killer story in the works involving the feral fuzzball which will probably see print next year.

2) Well, we just saw how bad a dude T-Ray is this month and we'll be seeing a lot more of him (and his fists) in a big way come issue #7!

3) After what happened to Black Tom in GENERATION X #25, it doesn't look like he'll be showing up anywhere for a while! Suffice it to say, if Black Tom ever shows his face in DEADPOOL, he will more than likely get his behind whupped. (If Deadpool has anything to say about it, anyway.)

4) Sorry, but for the immediate future, you're just gonna have to be satisfied with Wade's meeting with Sasquatch in issue #1. Still, with Alpha Flight getting their own book in June, anything's possible!

5) Wade's not a mutant! His only power is his artificially-enhanced healing factor, although some people say his demented personality can't possibly be a result of normal genes!

Dear Deadlines,

I was pretty happy when I found out Deadpool was getting another series. When the first limited series came out, I bought it and loved it. When I finally obtained an issue of MARVEL VISION advertising a new DEADPOOL series, I ordered it right away. I have a couple of questions for you guys, of course:

1) Will the second limited series be reprinted as a trade paperback? I'm a big Deadpool fan, and the second limited series was offered after Marvel stopped advertising in *Previews*, so I didn't know it was out until it was too late. Plus, there are no back issues of it available locally.

2) Is anything going to happen between Wade and Siryn? I don't actually see what she could possibly see in him, though they would make an interesting couple...

3) What is with C.F.? Is he just highly durable? Does he do anything besides sit there waiting for Wade to pound him?

4) Last one...what ever happened to Copycat?

I agree with Chaz Williams about LL&L... they seem pretty lame. I'm not sure about this "True Hero" thing that supposedly Deadpool may become. He's best suited to what he is: a motor-mouthed merc with no real allegiance, always sitting on the border between hero and villain. Until Wade shuts up, Make Mine Marvel!

David Laramie
Plattsburgh, NY
JDSLaramie@aol.com

Well, David, only time will tell if Deadpool will ever become the hero that the folks over at Laudan, Luckman & Lake are predicting. 'Pool, for one, highly doubts it will ever happen. As for your questions,

1) You're in luck! The second DEADPOOL limited series by Mark Waid and Ian Churchill will be slipping your way as a trade paperback this June!

2) Wade and Siryn, Wade and Siryn... Who are they again?

3) Like Deadpool, C.F. is a hard-working

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NEXT TIME:
DEADPOOL'S IN LOVE, AND ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD! YAY, THE SERIES IS OVER...NOT!
PLUS: JOIN WADE AND WEASEL ON THE STRANGEST HELLHOUSE JOB EVER! (AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, WAIT'LL YOU SEE BLIND AL'S JUMPSHOT ON THE BASKETBALL COURT!)

mercenary (as alluded to this issue), though his primary function in life seems to be getting pounded by Deadpool.

4) Copycat was last seen in CABLE #'s 37-39. She'll be making a return of sorts to Wade's life in May.

Dear Deadheads,

Up till now, I've read DEADPOOL #1 and #2. I have to say that the action and art are incredible, therefore I will be a DEADPOOL collector as long as you put the comic out. It is interesting to see a character with so much energy, and his comedy stylings are hilarious. So far, I love everything, so keep it the same. I just hope that Deadpool will encounter enemies that are mean and tough, and will give Deadpool some competition.

Now my questions:

1) How did Deadpool become hideously deformed?

2) What is that device that makes him disappear?

3) How many DEADPOOL comics are you willing to make?

Well, that's all I have to say. Please, continue to keep me entertained and make many comics.

Lurch
Alice, TX

Deadpool has enough energy to fill a barn, and you'll keep seeing those qualities month in and month out! Since you're aching for a big, bad enemy, what'd you think about what you saw of T-Ray this issue? Do you think he's mean and tough enough to give 'Pool some trouble? He's just the beginning of Deadpool's problems... As for your questions:

1) Deadpool got his... unfortunate... appearance as a result of the healing factor process our old buddy Dr. Killbrew put Wade through years ago to cure his cancer.

2) That handy dandy little belt buckle of Deadpool's activates his personal teleporter. Unfortunately for him, Weasel doesn't always keep up with its maintenance schedule, and the 'porter fritzes out when Deadpool least expects it (as evidenced in issue #1).

3) Five. We're willing to make five. Naaah...just joking! We'll keep on making issue after issue of DEADPOOL for as long as people keep reading them!

Dear *Deadlines*,

I wanted to drop a line about how much I am enjoying the DEADPOOL series. I never picked up either of the limited series so I only know of the character from his appearances in other Marvel titles. I have to tell you, the new monthly is a breath of fresh air. I picked it up because of the stellar artwork but the writing is what has convinced me to stay on for the long haul. This book is really funny! I mean the action is great and I love all the supporting characters (Patch rocks). I also am enjoying the pace the book is taking. It is no secret how Wade feels about Siryn. Many writers would have kept readers hanging around for at least 10 issues for this to be addressed, but Mr. Kelly has brought it to the forefront right away. This would hold true since when most of us have strong feelings for someone, they are in the forefront of our minds. I can't say enough about the art for this series. From pencils to colors to letters, the look of this book is clean and exciting. I hope Deadpool is around for a long time.

John Norris
jnorris@tlcs.timelifecs.com

Thanks a lot, John! More and more, fans are writing in to sing the praises of DEADPOOL's supporting characters. That's great, 'cause as great as Deadpool is, he'll always need a little help from his friends, and whether he wants to admit it or not, he's actually *got* a few.

Dear *Deadlines*,

This is an excellently funny comic. I'm not just saying that. I'm typing it, too! And it's one of the best-colored comics since the X-MEN issue when Jean found out Xavier had been in love with her at the very beginning of "Onslaught." I don't know too much about Deadpool, this book being my first intro to him, but I'm sure everything will be revealed in due course, so I only have four questions:

1) Who was Wade Wilson before that whole Weapon X thing?

2) Around how old is he?

3) Any chance of an encounter with Spider-Man? (That just seems natural. Daredevil, too.)

That finished, I really would like to suggest Deadpool get involved with The Great Game. I miss that, especially Joystick. And what exactly does Marvel have against Canada?!?!?! My mother works for the Canadian government! 'Course, she'd probably love this book...

Heather "Hez" MacDonald
Ottawa, ON, Canada

Thanks, Heather! You may not know too much about Deadpool right now, but we'll make sure you learn something new and get a deeper understanding of his mind each and every issue! Now, to answer your inquiries:

1) Good question! Our May issue will shed some light on this matter....

2) Somewhere between newly born and nearly dead!

3) We've got a rockin' Spidey story in the works for 1998 that's like nothing you've ever seen before! In the meantime, you can see Spider-Man's old pal Daredevil in the upcoming DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97, due out in July—it's awesome!

Well, folks, that's about all the room we have this month. See ya next time!

BEHIND THE SCENES

Hola, gang! Time for another trip "behind the scenes" into the making of the wild, wooly DEADPOOL! We promised you more on DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97 this issue, but we just couldn't resist sharing some secrets from the set of DEADPOOL! In issues #4-5, the relentless monthly schedule caught up with us in a big way, so we decided to give our bud Nathan Massengill a rest and try out a bold experiment with our friends at Digital Chameleon. Digital has perfected a "Pencils to Color" procedure which we decided to try, thereby keeping things on track. We sat down with one of our favorite people over at Digital, Rick Nielson, to get the lowdown on this whole "Pencils to Color" thing. Here's what Rick said:

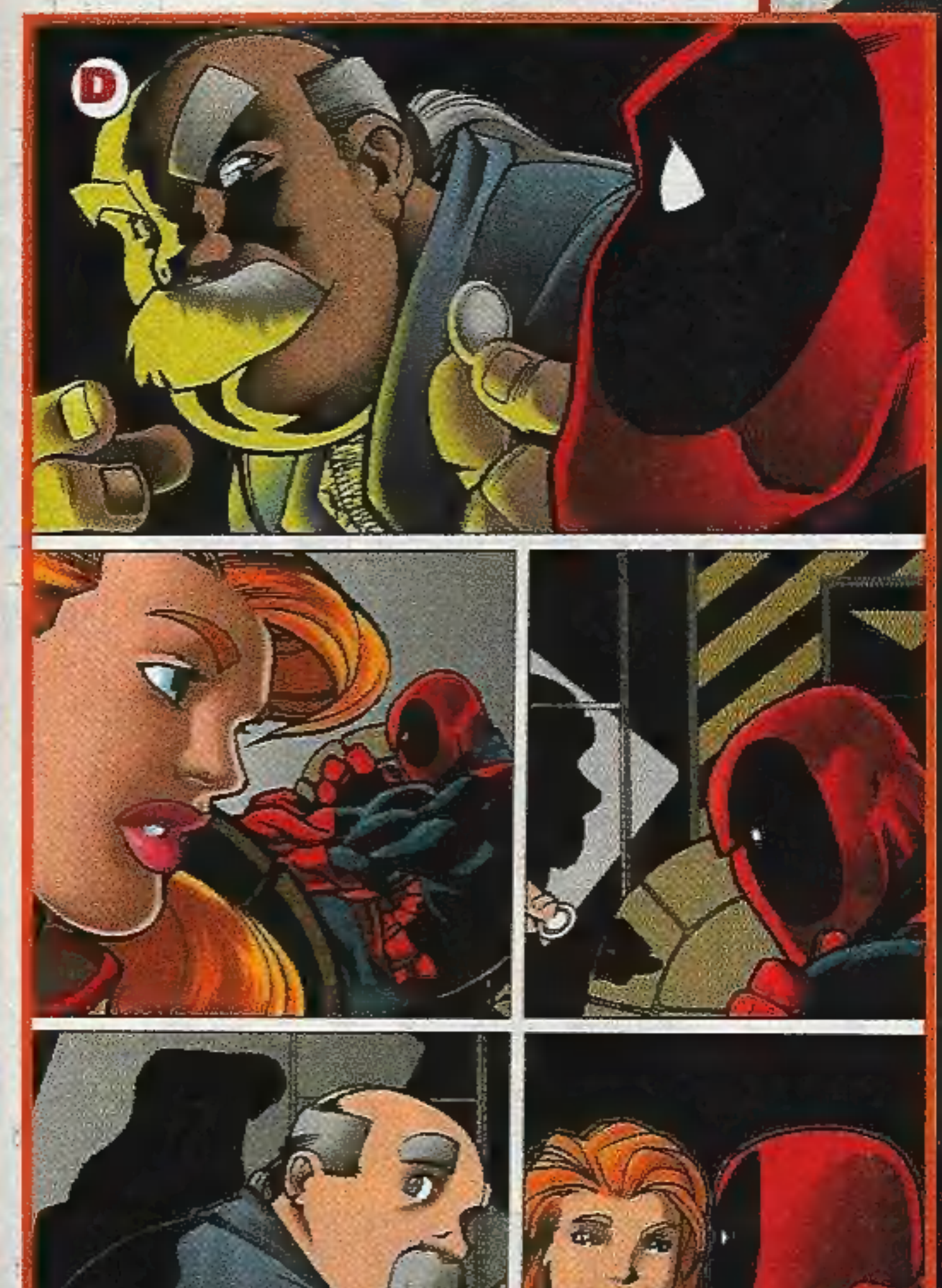
"'Pencils to Color' is a production process that we created so that finished pencils could be used as the source art for comic books. Digital Chameleon works at the tail end of the pre-press production process where deadlines are

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD: CUT AS SHOWN, ABUT PAGE EDGES, TAPE ON BACK. DO NOT OVERLAP.

critical. We realized if the art had already been drawn tightly in pencil, we could develop a digital process so it could be used as a printable ink.

We scan original finished pencil art (a), and through a series of adjustments, create a "digital ink" version of that art (b). Color guides are simultaneously designed (c) and then we turn the page over to our super team of digital painters (d).

Digital Chameleon doesn't create any new lines and we don't add to the art - we "manipulate" the pencil art to the point where it reproduces with consistent blacks as the inker intended when the original art was drawn. We draw panel borders and interpret solid blacks as indicated by the penciler - the



computer is an effective tool for those jobs. Enhancement is the job of the traditional inker and our process is not inking in the traditional sense."

And so there you have it! Thanks to Digital, we were able to keep the machinery running while allowing Nathan to return to full-time inking status next month!